

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A guide rail (1) of a linear guide, on which a guide carriage (2) can be mounted longitudinally displaceably, the guide rail (1) having an underside, by means of which it can be arranged on a mounting surface (3), and two opposite longitudinal sides which are provided with running tracks (8), rail parts (10) of the guide rail (1) which are arranged one behind the other being connected to one another by means of connecting elements (15, 21), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a tension element (19a) is provided ~~in order~~ to brace the connected rail parts (10) with respect to one another, the guide rail is provided with bores emanating from the top side of the guide rail and that the tension element has a tensioning screw inserted in the bore to be actuated from the top side of the guide rail.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The guide rail as claimed in claim 1, in which two rail parts (10) arranged adjacent to one another can be pressed with their mutually confronting end faces (12) against one another by means of the tension element (19a).

Cancel Claims 3 and 4.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The guide rail as claimed in claim 1, in which the running tracks (8) are formed on running wires (6), the rolling bodies being formed by running rollers (9) which roll on the running wires (6).

Claim 6 (original) The guide rail as claimed in claim 1, in which the running tracks are formed by ball grooves which are formed on the guide rail and on which balls rotating endlessly in the guide carriage roll.

Claim 7 (original) The guide rail as claimed in claim 1, in which the running tracks are formed by planar running surfaces which are formed on the guide rail and on which rollers rotating endlessly in the guide carriage roll.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A method for aligning and fixing rail parts (10), arranged adjacently to one another, of the guide rail (1) as claimed in claim 1 according to the following steps:

- connection of two rail parts (10) arranged adjacently to one another by means of the connecting element (13, 21),
- arrangement of the rail parts (10) with their underside on the mounting surface (3),

- insofar as this has not already taken place before the abovementioned step,
- actuation of the tension element (19a) until the end faces of the two ends of the rail parts are pressed against one another to an extent such that displacements of the rail parts (10) by the application of an actuating force are still possible ~~in order~~ to align the rail parts (10) with one another,
- placing of a test gage gauge onto the guide rail (1), said test gage gauge bearing with test surfaces both against the running tracks (8) of one rail part (10) and against the running tracks (8) of the other rail part (10),
- if appropriate optionally, renewed actuation of the tension element (19a), with the result that the rail parts (10) adjacent to one another are satisfactorily fixed in their aligned position with respect to one another,
- fastening of the guide rail (1) to a connection part (4) by means of fastening elements in which the test gauge is formed by the guide carriage the rolling bodies of which are provided with rolling surfaces which form the test surfaces.

Cancel Claim 9.

Add the following claims:

Claim 10 (new) A guide rail of a linear guide, on which a guide carriage can be mounted longitudinally displaceably, the guide rail having an underside, by means of which it can be arranged on a mounting surface and two opposite longitudinal sides which are provided with running tracks, rail parts of the guide rail which are arranged one behind the other being connected to one another by means of connecting elements, wherein a tension element is provided to brace the connected rail parts with respect to one another, wherein the tensioning element is formed by a piston and two sleeves, into each of which a tension screw is screwed and wherein the sleeves are inserted into bores of the rail parts and wherein the piston penetrates into piston bores of the rail parts.

Claim 11 (new) A guide rail as claimed in claim 10, in which the piston is provided at each of its two ends with a wedge-shaped pocket and in which the tension screw is provided at its end facing the wedge-shaped pocket with a conical head.

Claim 12 (new) A guide rail of a linear guide, on which a guide carriage can be mounted longitudinally displaceably, the guide rail having an underside, by means of which it can be arranged on a mounting surface and two opposite longitudinal sides which are provided with running tracks, rail parts of the guide rail which are arranged one behind the other being connected to one another by means of connecting elements, wherein a tension element is provided to brace the connected rail parts with respect to one another, wherein the connecting

clement additionally has a joint, the joint axis of which is arranged transversely to the longitudinal axis of the guide rail.